

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No: To Be Assigned  
Applicants: Takahito ISHII, et al.  
Filed: Herewith  
Title: FLEXIBLE PTC HEATING ELEMENT AND METHOD OF  
MANUFACTURING THE HEATING ELEMENT  
TC/A.U.: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned  
Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned  
Docket No.: MAT-8638US

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT*****Mail Stop PCT***

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The following Japanese references are not in the English language:

- 1) 2003-217904

- 2) 2003-217902
- 3) 2003-109804
- 4) 2003-109803
- 5) 2002-270403
- 6) 2001-237104
- 7) 2001-326105
- 8) 56-13689
- 9) 06-096843
- 10) 08-120182

References 1) to 7) and 9) and 10) include an English language abstract. Reference 8) includes a partial English translation.

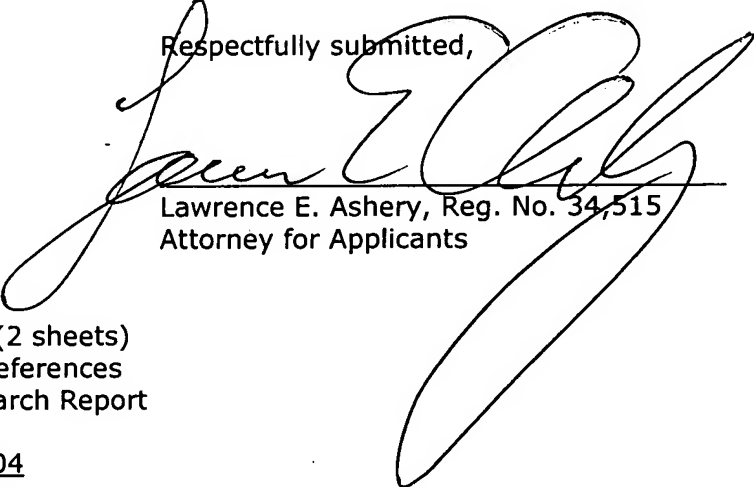
In addition, References 8) to 10) include a "concise explanation" under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) as set forth in the background portion of the specification.

Further, References 1) to 3) and 5) to 7) were cited in a search report by a foreign Patent Office in a patent application corresponding to the above-identified patent application. An English translation of the International Search Report, indicating the degree of relevance determined by the foreign patent office, is submitted herewith. MPEP Section 609 IIIA(3), second paragraph.

Reference JP 2003-217903 appears in the International Search Report in the "Y" and "P" categories. Applicants' representative believes, however, that this was missing and that Reference JP 2003-109803 was intended.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with  
the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515  
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/fp

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449 (2 sheets)  
Copies of (11) References  
International Search Report

Dated: December 7, 2004

P.O. Box 980  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980  
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby  
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PTO/SB/08A (AW 4/25/03) (04-03)

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Substitute for Form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

SHEET 1 of 2

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Takahito ISHII, et al.
Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Examiner Name	To Be Assigned
Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8638US

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date (MM-DD- YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP 2003-217904 A (with English abstract)	07/31/03	MATSUSHITA ELEC IND CO LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 2003-217902 A (with English abstract)	07/31/03	MATSUSHITA ELEC IND CO LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 2003-109804 A (with English abstract)	04/11/03	MATSUSHITA ELEC IND CO LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 2003-109803 (with English abstract)	04/11/03	MATSUSHITA ELEC IND CO LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 2002-270403 A (with English abstract)	09/20/02	MATSUSHITA ELEC IND CO LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		WO 00/10177	02/24/00	GENERAL ELECTRIC CO		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 2001-237104 A (with English abstract)	08/31/01	NGK INSULATORS LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 2001-326105 A (with English abstract)	11/22/01	TDK CORP		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 56-13689 (with partial English translation)	02/10/81	MATSUSHITA DENKI SANGYO CO LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 06-096843 (with English abstract)	04/08/94	NIPPON CARBON CO LTD		<input type="checkbox"/>
		JP 08-120182 (with English abstract)	05/14/96	NDK CORP		<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

<sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup>Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

<sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

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The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for Form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>	<b>Complete if Known</b>	
	Application Number	<b>To Be Assigned</b>
	Filing Date	<b>Herewith</b>
	First Named Inventor	<b>Takahito ISHII, et al.</b>
	Art Unit	<b>To Be Assigned</b>
	Examiner Name	<b>To Be Assigned</b>
<b>SHEET 2 of 2</b>	Attorney Docket No.	<b>MAT-8638US</b>

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

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